

Henry Kuehn became smitten with architectural history the very first time he heard Vincent Scully lecture to undergraduates at Yale. Little did Henry realize that the magnetic pull of Scully's inspiration would draw him into an architectural history orbit, of sorts, that would influence both his career and, even more importantly, his service to organizations that are dedicated to architectural history and design education. After earning a bachelor's degree from Yale and an MBA from Harvard, Henry's professional life led him in two different directions, into the businesses of medicine and architecture. In pursuit of the latter, Henry worked at the New York firm of Voorhees, Walker, Smith, and James right out of college, and later at the Chicago firm of C. F. Murphy Associates, where he saw Helmut Jahn design the Post-Modern State of Illinois Center as well as many other municipal and state commissions in Illinois and across the U.S.

But his life-long passion for the history of architecture, interior design, landscapes, and urbanism also led him to serve on the boards of countless not-for-profit organizations that he helped transform with his business acumen and maintain with true grit. They include the Chicago Architecture Foundation, where Henry has served as Chairman, has been an active docent for more than 40 years, and was named their first, and only, Life Trustee; the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, where he served as President during the long and productive era when his colleagues, Carter Manny and Rick Solomon, directed the foundation; and the Kentucky Opera Board where he currently serves as Chairman and guides that organization's state-wide goal to both expand and deepen the relevance of opera for contemporary audiences.

Fortunately for the Society of Architectural Historians, Henry also served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer and trusted strategic advisor for more than a decade in the early 2000s. Not surprisingly, Henry's first summer Executive Committee meeting was a complete architectural immersion—a two-day camping trip in the New Mexico dessert to experience Chaco Canyon, the site of one of the most important Pre-Columbian landscapes in North America. Henry and I bonded over discussions at sunrise about the buildings on this UNESCO World Heritage site that had been built to align with solar and lunar cycles, and we still look back on our camping adventure as a symbol of what is truly unique and wonderful about the culture of SAH. All of us at SAH extend our heartfelt congratulations to Henry Kuehn on being named a Fellow of SAH. We have been enriched in many ways by Henry's long and continued involvement with the Society, and we will be forever in his debt.

Pauline Saliga, Executive Director
Society of Architectural Historians